National Congress Bulletin

DECEMBER 1952 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 20, NO. 4

Dear P.T.A. Presidents:

Mrs. Newton P. Leonard

THIS is a happy and a very special time of year; holy days of both the Christian and Jewish faiths are close. Soon lights will glow on Christmas trees to celebrate the birth of Christ, and candles will be lit for Hanukkah, Feast of the Dedication.

★There is joyous expectancy in the air. At home secrets abound. Packages are smuggled into the house and whisked away to secret hiding places. From the attic come decorations for the tree and last year's gay ribbons and wrappings to be sorted and pressed. The kitchen is aromatic with the smell of baking cookies and spices for fruit cakes and puddings. Small hands are learning the joy of wielding a cookie cutter, gilding cones and nuts, and cutting out paper stars. Garlands of evergreens and colored lights make the streets festive, and shops glitter with rich merchandise.

★It is indeed a happy and a very special time. But in the "busy-ness" of preparing feasts, decorations, and gifts, let us not forget that this season offers a very special opportunity for P.T.A. members to carry out one of the most important obligations we have set for ourselves in our action program: "to emphasize moral and spiritual values to build an America worthy of its heritage of faith in God and freedom."

★Through deeds and actions in home, school, church, and community, P.T.A. members can help children and young people to experience goodwill toward others and practice the generosity that springs from genuine love. We can provide experiences that will help children and youth to understand their own religious faith and to comprehend and respect the faith of others. We should help them to understand those who differ from them, for only through mutual understanding shall we achieve peace on earth.

★We must remember that it is not enough merely to tell children what things are good and admirable. Children learn by doing; we must give them an opportunity to do good acts. Children learn by imitating; if we want them to have the right attitudes, we must have the right attitudes.

★In the home, for example, we can put more emphasis on giving than on receiving gifts. Together members of a family can plan, prepare, and deliver a gift to someone who is lonely, ill, or in need. Together families can read Biblical accounts of the events we celebrate, and read and perhaps dramatize appropriate stories. They can sing together, and they can go to church or temple together.

★In the school, the P.T.A. can encourage activities and projects that create goodwill and understanding. As the child hears and enjoys the songs and stories that have come from other lands, as he participates in the portrayals of the holiday traditions of other lands and other faiths than his own, he grows in understanding, tolerance, and respect for other peoples. There are many projects through which a child can have an active experience of goodwill. Children who buy or sell UNICEF greeting cards are helping to provide milk and medicine for other children. This they can understand.

★In the community, the P.T.A. can encourage and sponsor interfaith and intercultural programs. Many communities find that a community tree, a community sing, and a pageant using people of various cultural groups help to destroy the barriers of differences and replace them with bonds of understanding and respect. There are now in our country, under the exchange-of-persons program, some 35,000 visitors from foreign lands. Seek out those in your community. They have rich contributions to make to us, and we can demonstrate our goodwill through our hospitality.

★The P.T.A. can also serve as coordinating agency for the charitable acts of the community and see that there are no duplications and unhappy oversights. We have all known occasions when one needy family received many baskets and another family none.

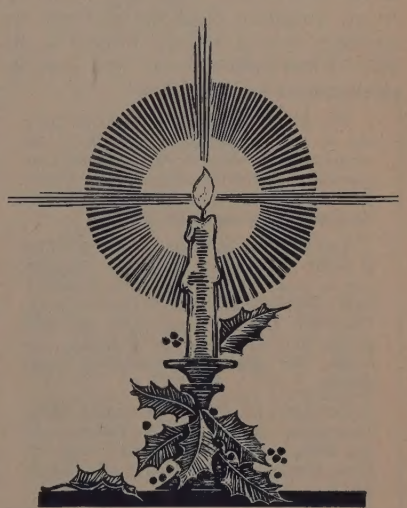
★Let us then use this happy and special time in home, school, church, and community to give our children and young people experiences that will foster their moral and spiritual growth. We can do it, for "the P.T.A. is the community integrator which has the power to unite all the forces and agencies that serve the best interests of children and youth."

★And now my warm good wishes to you for the holiday season. May it be for all of us a time blessed with increasing love and understanding, one of another.

Loyally yours,

Lucille P. Leonard

Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



Merrie Christmas

Director of Field Service: Marguerite M. Scheid
Field consultants: Ellen Dell Bieler • Dema Kennedy
Through Our Fieldglass is prepared from material gathered by members of the field staff "on location."

Healthful Hospitality

• Did you ever think refreshments could convey a lesson? P.T.A.'s throughout one Midwest state are using them as teaching aids to promote health and nutrition education. The idea originated with a health chairman and involves a number of P.T.A. committees.

When the membership or publicity chairman sends out notices or invitations, she requests that each member bring a fresh vegetable to the meeting. As the members arrive, their contributions are placed in attractively decorated baskets. The display arouses curiosity and comment. During the session the hospitality committee prepares the vegetables for serving, and the art committee arranges them on serving trays. As the meeting breaks up into discussion groups, the hospitality committee passes the trays. (Fresh fruits or canned fruit or vegetable juices could be used on another occasion.)

Result: discussion and information about the health and nutritive values of raw vegetables and ideas for serving them. Incidentally, note the number of committees that have cooperated in the demonstration.

Top-Ranking Teachers

• The film ended. The lights went up. At an invitation from the platform the audience moved eagerly toward a display of free publications. And soon the publications had vanished!

The place was a parent-teacher meeting in a Southwestern community; the occasion, a showing of the National Congress sound slidefilm *Teachers in Print;* and the pamphlets on display our own National Congress publications.

Congress publications are our teachers in print. They show us *how* to organize, how to make our unit function smoothly, how to do effective parent-teacher work. They are full of suggestions on *what* to do, and they provide abundant materials for programs, including study groups.

Teachers in Print, the sound slidefilm, shows how a P.T.A. makes itself an alert, informed, effective unit by using Congress publications, our "teachers in print."

It is clear from this meeting in the Southwest that P.T.A. members appreciate and want Congress publications when they understand their purpose and proper use. Teachers particularly were glad to get them. There is no doubt that the film effectively demonstrates the value of Congress publications in P.T.A. work.

Facts Seasoned with Drama and Fun

• Four officers attending a leadership training institute a hundred miles from their community were so pleased with the opening session that they spent most of their first lunch hour drafting a report to their local unit. How could they best communicate to their fellow members the information and the stimulation they were acquiring at the institute?

A skit, they decided, would be a vivid way. They would first catch the attention of their audience by discussing the local hunting season, a topic of current interest. Then Mr. ____ would say he had "bigger" news, and they would swing into a lively account of the institute.

Such chatty, informal dramatizations are a good way of sharing a stimulating experience. Often the information conveyed is remembered longer than if it were transmitted in a formal report.

Another P.T.A. is benefiting from the dramatic talents of its members. A husband and wife who serve as co-chairmen of the program committee appear as "Paw" and "Maw" Perkins and present a five-minute dramatization of P.T.A. news at the beginning of every meeting.

Thus facts come to life and are spiced with laughter.

Bright Star

• A bright star hovers on the educational horizon of one of our states. It is the proposed state board of education, which would be established by an amendment to the state constitution.

The state congress in cooperation with other educational organizations made an intensive study of the proposal. Then it endorsed the constitutional amendment and put it on its legislation program. It is now cooperating in the "Bright Star Program" to secure passage of the amendment. Each local association was asked to acquaint its members with the proposal at one or more of its fall meetings.

The "Bright Star Program" includes the following features:

1. Every resident who supports the amendment will turn on his porch light on the evening before Election Day.
2. "Minutemen," drawn from P.T.A. ranks, will call at every home that doesn't show a porch light to explain the proposed amendment and leave informational material.
3. P.T.A.'s will prepare releases for local papers, explaining the program, asking support for it, and citing the endorsement of parent-teacher and other educational organizations.

Flash.—As we go to press, the election is over, but the official count is not in. An Associated Press unofficial count, however, shows the amendment was approved.

Telling the P.T.A. Story

• One of our enterprising P.T.A.'s publishes a monthly newspaper, which it distributes to all parents. It reports on activities of the school and the local unit and comments on the state and national parent-teacher scene.

Sound Foundation

• One of our councils recently had the pleasant task of arranging the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for a $1,119,196 senior high school.

A pageant written by the state bulletin editor interpreted the history of the state. The narrator was the state art chairman, and the participants were the children and youth of the city schools. Then the president of the state congress in a challenging message stressed that "we, too, are builders"—builders of future citizens.

As the box containing the history of the local P.T.A.'s, the state parent-teacher bulletin, and other documents was placed in the cornerstone, all those present were deeply aware that continued home-school cooperation is the best foundation on which to base the welfare of young people.

U. S. SAVINGS BONDS
ARE DEFENSE BONDS
—BUY THEM REGULARLY!

© H. Armstrong Roberts

ACTION PROGRAM

Moral and Spiritual Values

It is no accident that the action program the National Congress of Parents and Teachers opens with e need for more emphasis on moral and spiritual values. iese values are implicit in the great Objects of the parent-icher organization—implicit also in its guiding principles, platform, and all the parent-teacher programs that have ought forth such a rich yield of worthy enterprise on half of children and youth.

Today the parent-teacher organization stands before the tion as an integral and indispensable factor in national elfare and vitality. And like the nation itself, the P.T.A. is built on a foundation of faith in God and man, for ith in God and man is the core of all true religion. For ore than half a century parent-teacher members have lieved that children who grow up in the knowledge of ght and wrong, of a moral and ethical code, and with a ep sense of the divine, will be a pillar of strength not ly to themselves but to their fellow men.

But believing is not enough, especially in these days when o many people are still groping toward a sustained faith. ecause we are always the better for a periodic "refresher urse" in how we can best foster moral and spiritual values in our children, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers calls upon its local units to do the job that must be done here with greater conviction and effectiveness than ever before. It is not an easy job. Rather, it calls for intelligence and understanding and willingness to support our own faith not only with the words we say but with the thoughts we think and the things we do in everyday living. Only so will our children believe what life has taught us, sometimes with pain—that a life without moral and spiritual values is not worth the living.

● As we approach the season of holidays and holy days, the action committee of the National Congress hopes that you will study carefully the section of the action program that deals specifically with moral and spiritual values. We call upon you also to carry out in the months to come the suggestions advanced for attaining the loftiest of all our aims—a generation spiritually and morally strong. These suggestions will appear in your *National Congress Bulletin*, beginning with the February issue.

● And now we wish you a happy Christmas. May our efforts, joined with the efforts of more than seven million other parent-teacher members, bring forth the kind of spiritual awareness that cannot fail to imprint itself deep in the hearts and minds of America's children and youth. "The ways, they are many; the end, it is one."

ADMINISTRATION ACTION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Rollin Brown, Chairman
Dr. John Headley
Mrs. James P. Ryan

☆

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 20 DECEMBER, 1952 Number 4

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The Action Program

for

● **Better Homes**

● **Better Schools**

● **Better Communities**

● Was outlined in detail in the November 1952 issue of the *National Congress Bulletin*. For information concerning reprints of the program, please write to your state congress office. You will find the address of your state office on your membership card.

Christmas

☆ Christmas means happy children, home and family, joy, good will, and generosity. Christmas means giving something you like to someone you love; it's giving something you value to someone you esteem.

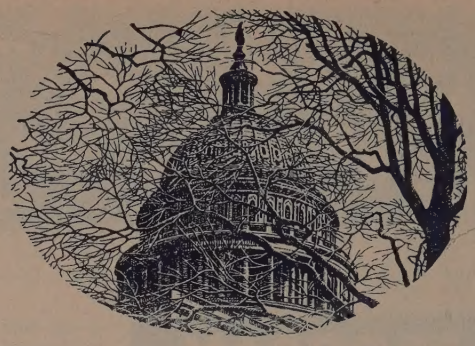
☆ That's why Christmas means subscribing to the **National Parent-Teacher** for relatives, friends, teachers, doctors, and others who share your concern for children. It's a happy remembrance of the season, for throughout the year every issue shines with the radiant message of the yuletide—love of children, good will toward our fellow men, hope and faith in achieving peace on earth and a better world for all.

LEGISLATION PROGRAM

of the

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

1952–53



OBJECT
"To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth."—
Article II, National Bylaws

As adopted September 26, 1952, by the National Board of Managers

The first three sections of the legislation program—legislation policies, action program, and continuing concerns—were published in the November *Bulletin*. In this issue the fourth and last section is presented.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE CONGRESSES

Legal Bases for Adoption and Guardianship of Minors

● Adoption is an important part of modern social process. More than half our states have emphasized this with new or amended adoption laws in the past three years. Continuing concern with this problem is expressed by the Board of Managers of the National Congress through the recommendation that the legislation committee of each state congress continue careful review of the current and proposed state legislation for adoption and guardianship of minors.

Objectives of adoption laws should be to provide protection for:

1. The child from unnecessary separation from parents, from adoption by unfit persons, and from interference in adoptive home.
2. The own parent from hurried decisions to yield child.
3. The adoptive parents from hereditary defects of child and from disturbance by natural parents.

Among the principles of adoption that help to achieve the above objectives are included:

1. Preservation of the child's identity without stigma.
2. Examination of adoption placements by qualified social agency on behalf of the court.
3. Safeguarding the new parental rights by termination of own parent rights.
4. Adoption proceedings held in home state of petitioners for adoption, in their local community, and in court with jurisdiction over children's cases.
5. Court hearings and records held confidential.
6. Consent to adoption obtained from natural parents o person or agency legally responsible.
7. Provision for trial period of adoptive residence, includ ing visits by authorized agency representative.

The Board recommends further that the significant gain made in the legal bases and practices for adoption an guardianship of minors during the past decade be the basi for continued emphasis in this area.

Other principles of adoption and related information is t be found in such sources as:

1. *Essentials of Adoption Law and Procedure.* Washingto D.C.: Children's Bureau Publication No. 331, Federa Security Agency, Social Security Administration, 194
2. *Guardianship, A Way of Fulfilling Public Responsibilit for Children.* Washington, D.C.: Children's Bureau Pub lication No. 330, Federal Security Agency, Social Securit Administration, 1949.
3. *Social Work Year Book.* New York: American Associ ation of Social Workers, 1951.

Child Labor Laws

● Federal control of child labor, which is administere through the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, applies onl to industries engaging in interstate commerce or producin goods for shipment in interstate commerce. Other than thi each state makes and enforces its own child labor laws.

Recent amendments have greatly strengthened the federa Fair Labor Standards Act. The federal government no has authority to prohibit the employment of children unde sixteen in any state while school is in session. The childre of migrant workers present the greatest problem in thi field. Eleven occupations have been declared hazardous fo children under eighteen and are closed to them. There is n protection under this law for newsboys.

State congresses are urged to bring their state laws up t the standards of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act

uvenile Detention

• The Board of Managers urges each state congress to study onditions under which juveniles are detained in court ustody and then determine whether state or local legis- ation is needed to improve these conditions or more ade- uately to protect the interests of the children and youth ho are affected by the conditions.

. In seeking to improve protective services for children and youth, there are several areas in which every state should be concerned. When is detention necessary? Is the practice abused? Do your grand juries, probation commission, or other groups having official status make periodic investigations and reports?

. What is the definition of a "child" so far as arrest and detention are concerned? What is the philosophy underlying detention of juveniles in your state? Is it designed to be purely custodial, punitive, rehabilitative, or a combination of two or more of these?

. Are children who are neglected or dependent because of home situations separated from those held for delinquencies? Is the same true of transient children and those held as material witnesses?

. Are there standards set by local or state authorities for the facilities in which these juveniles are held and for the personnel who administer them?

. How do detention services in rural or urban centers compare with those in metropolitan areas?

. Do you encourage local units to visit jails and juvenile halls (or detention homes) to determine and report whether juvenile offenders are segregated from adult inmates and how long juveniles are held in custody before court hearings?

. Is there a state agency especially concerned with youthful offenders?

The answers to the questions should indicate whether better aws, better administration, or greater public understanding f the problem is needed in your state.

Correlative Efforts for Child Welfare Legislation

• The Board of Managers recommends that state congresses ork for the establishment of a state commission or council omposed of representatives of state agencies and organizations concerned with the welfare of children and youth. Such a commission or council can be most effective in coordinating efforts to secure legislation needed to improve services for children and youth.

Safety

Laws Governing Traffic Safety

Because of the ever-increasing number of highway traffic accidents, the Board of Managers recommends that each state congress work for:

1. Enactment of state driver-licensing laws conforming to national standards, to the end that every driver of an automotive vehicle may be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit to drive and fully aware of his responsibility to the public as the operator of a motor car.
2. Enactment of modern, comprehensive, and uniform traffic laws and ordinances based on the Uniform Vehicle Code and the Model Traffic Ordinance, both available from the National Safety Council.
3. Requirement that all owners of motor vehicles carry such public liability and property damage insurance—or prove personal responsibility—as will give proof of their ability to pay for personal injury or property damage caused by motor vehicles owned or operated by them.
4. Provision of budget and personnel organization adequate to enforce laws governing traffic safety.

Fire Prevention

Because of the great losses in human lives and property each year through fires, the Board of Managers recommends that state congresses give full cooperation to governors, mayors, school superintendents, and all officials in the fields of education, engineering, and enforcement in putting into effect these recommendations of the President's Conference on Fire Prevention:

1. Study of existing building codes.
2. Strengthening of state-wide fire prevention laws.

Community Safety

Community surveys should be undertaken to the end that appropriate legislation may be enacted to safeguard children from hazards such as unused wells, abandoned buildings, unprotected quarries and pits, and irrigation ditches in residential areas.

50-or-more and 100-or-more Clubs

• Is your P.T.A. on its way to membership in one of these distinguished clubs? To qualify for the Fifty-or-More Club a unit must have sent in at least fifty subscriptions to our official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*. One hundred or more subscriptions win entry for the local association into the Hundred-or-More Club.

The first list of associations that have qualified for honors will be published in the January 1953 issue of the *Bulletin*. The final list will appear in the May issue.

In order that your unit may appear on the January list, send the following information to the *National Parent-Teacher*, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois, on or before December 10, 1952:

1. **The number of subscriptions (50 or more).**
2. **The date they were forwarded.**
3. **The name of your P.T.A.**
4. **Your city and state.**
5. **The name of your unit president.**

Acknowledgment

• We are glad to remedy an oversight in the recent *Founders Day* pamphlet and acknowledge Mrs. R. E. Shelby and Mrs. Joseph L. Hochman as the authors of the new skit, *Youth Takes a Hand*. Mrs. Shelby, Founders Day chairman of James Russell Lowell P.T.A., Teaneck, New Jersey, and Mrs. Hochman, program director of the Teaneck Girl Scouts, adapted it from the pageant, *Parents with a Purpose*, published last year.

Youth Takes a Hand was performed by the James Russell Lowell P.T.A., under the leadership of Mrs. Frederick Auer, president. Now included in the *Founders Day* pamphlet, it is available for the use of all P.T.A.'s.

© Dallas Jones Productions

A scene from the publications sound slidefilm "Teachers in Print," which is being shown at many district and council meetings throughout the country.

Pilots of Progress

Congress Publications

AS falling leaves signaled the arrival of autumn, P.T.A.'s the country over were occupied with their own unique observance of the season. They were covering the land with leaflets—bright leaflets, which glow with the vital parent-teacher philosophy. Those into whose hands they fell can learn quickly and with ease the **why's** that have brought more than seven million members into the organization, the **how's** of organization and procedure, the **what's** of study and information, and the **when's** of P.T.A. history.

WHY'S

● *I Belong to a P.T.A. Because . . .*, one of the leaflets most in demand, is a succinct and persuasive statement of the *why's*. The fourteenth and closing reason is "I belong to a P.T.A. because I firmly trust in the value of an organization that has made it possible for millions of parents, teachers, and other citizens to become acquainted with each other's problems, hopes, and purposes." We hope that leaflet reached the parents and school people who have not yet felt the security and confidence that come from sharing experiences and working together for their boys and girls.

We hope these parents and teachers picked up a copy of *The P.T.A. Needs You* with its challenging first few lines: "The P.T.A. needs you because there is work to be done for America's children and youth, work that will not wait." If they will give five minutes to *General Information*, they can learn from a few illuminating columns the structure of the P.T.A., its permanent platform and current emphasis, its publications and membership. And the leaflet *7,219,165 Volunteers* answers a score of *why's* that they might ask.

Let every P.T.A. continue to scatter these leaflets over farm, town, and city so that no citizen may remain ignorant of his opportunity to create a better world for children, by participation in an organization devoted to their welfare.

HOW'S

● Indispensable to local units are some very practical publications that help them move forward in their work with ease and effectiveness. Chief of these is the *Parent-Teacher Manual*. How can associations implement our Objects? How do committees function? How do chairmen and officers fulfill their duties? How does one conduct a meeting? Build a program? Secure publicity? Install officers? The *Manual* tells *how*. May every president and—it is hoped—every officer and chairman have copies at hand for ready reference.

How To Organize should be a pocket companion for all who organize either pre-school or regular P.T.A's or who seek to bring independent parent-teacher groups into membership with the state and national congresses.

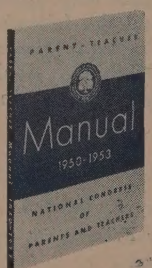
Schools of Instruction aids P.T.A. leaders in their institutes and workshops for leadership training. For councils and high school P.T.A's with their special needs there are the manuals, *Councils* and *High School Parent-Teacher Associations*.

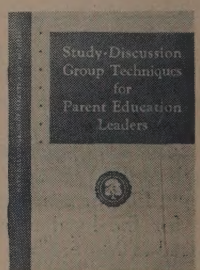
WHAT'S

● Does a P.T.A. want to have a parent education course? Tailored to fit the desire are: *Study-Discussion Group Techniques for Parent Education Leaders* for those who will conduct the course; the dynamic and authoritative *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* for study materials and study guides; and the cheery yellow *Reading Guide for Parents*, which has, in addition, a booklist for children and young people.

WHEN'S

● Finally there are several publications that deal with P.T.A. history—publications that kindle one's pride in the or-





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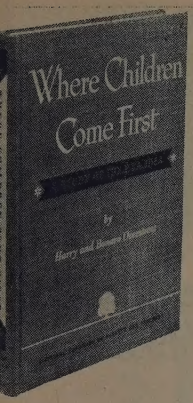

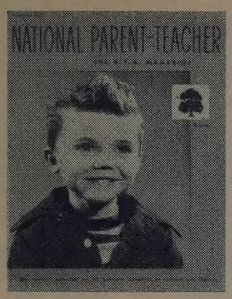

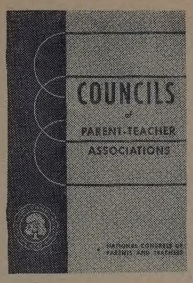

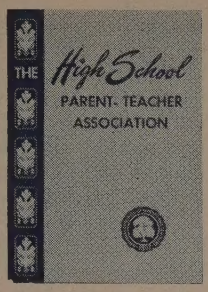

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ganization and bring into perspective he noble vision obscured sometimes by ressing local affairs.

The annual Founders Day pamphlet rovides program materials and ideas or an observance that will have signifi-ance, dignity, and charm worthy of our ounders.

Where Children Come First, the great book" of parent-teacher litera-ure, is a heartwarming account of the arent-teacher movement by Harry and Bonaro Overstreet, noted authors, lec-urers, and adult educators. Mrs. Over-treet is well known to parent-teacher eople through her series of articles on ffective living, which have been appear-ng in the *National Parent-Teacher* for everal years.

The price of *Where Children Come irst* is three dollars. (Limited quanti-ies of the other publications described n this article are sent *free* to the local resident from the state office.) But hree dollars is a small amount— and ertainly a legitimate and moderate item in any P.T.A. budget—for an invalu-able and permanent addition to a P.T.A. bookshelf.

CURRENT

The *National Congress Bulletin* needs no introduction to you. But are your officers and chairmen on the subscrip-tion list? For successful work they need the new P.T.A. ideas, the up-to-date P.T.A. information, and the stimulation of Mrs. Leonard's letters that every issue of the *Bulletin* brings. The sub-scription price is only thirty cents a year.

PERENNIAL

Congress publications are the nutri-ents that make the P.T.A. oak grow in girth and strength. Scatter the bright leaflets, use the brown manuals, so that the P.T.A. oak may become an ever more stalwart symbol of our pledge of service and protection to childhood and youth.

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER
National Chairman,
Committee on Congress Publications

STAY SAFE FOR CHRISTMAS

● "Holi-daze"—a combination of last-minute shopping, party-going, crowded streets, and hurrying pedestrians and motorists—is the chief safety hazard of the Christ-mas season. The National Safety Council is renewing its drive to reduce accidental deaths, always at their peak in December.

Two other major hazards con-front drivers and pedestrians alike: bad weather and longer periods of darkness in December. Snow, sleet, and rain play havoc with windshield visibility and make it difficult for pedestrians to be seen. Slippery roads make the walker's footing unsure, often pro-pelling him into dangerous traffic situations.

Night descends earlier this month, so much of the travel in-volved in getting to and from work, in shopping, and in visiting must be done in dusk or darkness.

Here are the National Safety Council's suggestions for keeping this Christmas safe:

When You Drive

1. Slow down in snow, rain, or on ice.

2. Keep your car in good me-chanical condition.

3. Never drive with someone who has been drinking. Form a taxi pool, if necessary, to reach home safely after a party.

When You Walk

4. Look both ways before cross-ing.

5. Don't hide behind packages or an umbrella.

6. Be especially alert in bad weather. The driver can't see you as easily in snow or rain.

● *Remember—The Best Present Is Your Presence*

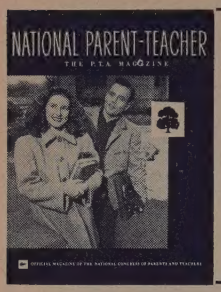
Skirvin Hotel
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Is Getting Ready For Us!

The latest word on the 1953 national convention in Oklahoma City is that an important group of workshops is being planned. Juvenile protection, cultural values, and school boards and the P.T.A. are topics that will lend themselves to the informal give-and-take of discussion meetings. Leading educators and spe-cialists will participate. The 1953 work-shops promise to surpass last year's, which were so popular.

The headquarters hotel during the convention, May 18–20, will be the Skirvin, shown in the picture at left. Because of its central location, you will be able to arrange meetings with friends and committee members easily. The modern Municipal Auditorium, with its excellent acoustics, will be the scene of the actual convention.

Circle your 1953 calendar now for an outstanding event—the National Con-gress convention!



Magazine MEMOS

● **For the Holy Days.** The joyous times draw near. In Christian homes happy preparations go forward to celebrate the Nativity. Soon Jewish families will be lighting the candles for Hanukkah, the Feast of Lights. Fittingly at this season our *National Parent-Teacher* stresses the significance of the spiritual life and brings us the insights of Bonaro Overstreet, Mary E. Courtenay, and Ordway Tead in three splendid articles in the December issue: "Stages of 'Feeling With,'" "Changeless Values in a Changing World," and "Youth's Quest for Religion." From Mrs. Leonard, our president, comes a thoughtful message, "Lights at Christmastide."

● **Books for Christmas Gifts.** A book for every youngster every Christmas is a happy tradition. But what book? Consult the annotated booklist in the December issue. It was prepared by Bernice E. Leary, curriculum consultant for the Madison, Wisconsin, public schools.

● **Serendipity.** It's a big word that means the happy discovery of one valuable thing while you're looking for another. That's exactly what happened recently in the field of dental research. Workers investigating the occurrence of brown mottled teeth in some areas of the United States stumbled upon a means of preventing tooth decay—fluoridation of drinking water. Read "The Facts About Fluoridated Water and Tooth Decay," by Henry F. Helmholz, M.D., chairman of Health, in the December issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*. It's an authoritative account. It may lead you to do a bit of investigation yourself: what is your community doing about preventing tooth decay?

● **Christmas Greeting.** Is there a family on your Christmas list to whom you always send some small remembrance? This year send a big remembrance for a trifling cost. Send the *National Parent-Teacher*. Subscription price $1.25 a year.

● **Teen-agers.** They're perplexing. They're wonderful. Are you worried about their unruliness? Are you pondering the problem of a curriculum that doesn't meet the needs of the exceptional youth? William D. Boutwell reports on the solutions that some homes, schools, and communities are reaching in his regular monthly feature, "What's Happening in Education?"

● **An Investment That Pays.** We parents and teachers are thrifty people. Teacher-parent conferences take a portion of our capital of time, energy, and (indirectly) money. Are they a sound investment? Do they pay dividends? Ethel Kawin, nationally known parent education consultant, asks the question in a penetrating article in the December *National Parent-Teacher*. Her answer is an emphatic yes, and she offers wise counsel on how to assure the highest returns on our investment.

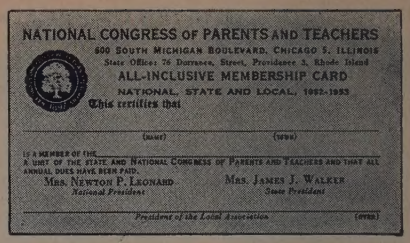
MULTIPLE DUES

● Some parents who belong to more than one P.T.A. are puzzled by the need to pay dues to each association in which they hold a membership. Local leaders are frequently called upon to explain the reasons for multiple dues. They will find the following statement on the subject helpful. Prepared by a special committee, consisting of Dr. John W. Headley, chairman, Mrs. David Aronson, and Mrs. G. W. Luhr, it received the authorization of the National Board of Managers on September 26, 1952.

"The National Congress of Parents and Teachers and its divisions have always operated on the basis of memberships, not members. To institute a new method of operation, one that would separate members from memberships in local P.T.A.'s, would complicate and increase the keeping of records at all levels—local, state, and national.

"Any adult interested in the purposes and objectives of the parent-teacher organization becomes a member upon payment of dues to a local association. The membership card issued at this time shows that the dues paid to the local unit include membership in the state and national organizations as well. The National Congress and the state branches render services to each unit, the costs of which are partly borne by the per capita dues of the members. Such all-inclusive dues must be paid in each local association where parents wish to be active, voting members.

"Each association to which a member belongs is a different group from any other association and gives special services to a different group of children. Such services merit support by all the members of that particular association. Parents having children in more than one school are of course equally interested in each child. Naturally, then, they wish to belong to and support the P.T.A. in each child's school.


NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD, CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS
State Office: 76 Dorrance Street, Providence 3, Rhode Island
ALL-INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP CARD
NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL, 1952-1953
This certifies that
(name) (title)
IS A MEMBER OF THE
A UNIT OF THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND THAT ALL ANNUAL DUES HAVE BEEN PAID.
MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, National President
MRS. JAMES J. WALKER, State President
President of the Local Association (area)

P. T. A. Membership Goals for 1952–53

1. **Re-enroll our 7,219,165 members immediately.**
2. **Invite into membership every parent, teacher, and interested citizen.**
3. **Bring all non-Congress units into membership with the state and national congresses.**
4. **Organize a P.T.A. in every school that has none.**

● **The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the organization that gives power, prestige, purpose, and significance to the letters "P.T.A." Without its leadership, guidance, constructive program of work, its supporting national contacts, and established place in the affairs of the nation, the letters "P.T.A." would not mean the same to children, school, community, or nation.**

"The nominal dues of each association are a tangible expression of the interest and good will of all the members. Any other plan would require tremendous increase in the records each association must keep and would result in great confusion in membership count."

National *Congress* Bulletin